

Governor's Advisory Council for Veteran Services

Arrowheads Community Club, Building 9-65

Fort Indiantown Gap

Annville, Pennsylvania 17003

May 15, 2019

Aging Committee

Ms. Samantha Cossman

Aging Committee: Joan Stakem and Samantha Cossman (co-chairs)

Subcommittee met on: 3/20/19 and 4/17/19 conference calls; 5/15/19 in-person

Name	Affiliation	Name	Affiliation
Joan Stakem	DMVA	Jamie Dunlap	PA Council on the Arts
Brian Natali	DMVA	Larry Furlong	PA Fish and Boat Commission
Dr. Darryl Jackson	DMVA	Christopher Kemmerer	PA State Parks
Kevin Hancock	DHS (OLTL)	James Fearn	DHS (OLTL)
Beth Ellis	DHS	Kimberly Sell-Shemansky	VISN 4
Sierra Bilous	OMHSAS	Kit Watson	American Legion
Kevin Longenecker	PDA	Tim Cleveland	Tioga Co. Veterans Affairs
Samantha Cossman	PDA (PA Link)		

Aging Committee

Vision Statement for Aging Committee

**Expand awareness of and access to
services, supports, benefits, and opportunities
for Pennsylvania's aging veterans
and their families and caregivers**

❑ Expanding PA Link Initiatives for Aging Veterans

- Promote communication and collaboration between CDVAs and AAAs
 - 3 more e-intros since Feb. (Montgomery, Allegheny, Cambria); 8 total to date
- Benefits and Rights for Older Pennsylvanians books
 - 2019 supply mailed to SVHs, TAA and VISN 4 VAMCs in mid-March
 - 2019 supply also being secured for VSOs for Summer/Fall conferences
 - 2020 demand will be calculated to promote ample supply
- DMVA and PACE collaboration
 - reach veterans with info about Registry and state benefits through PACE
 - use PACE mailing platform and Registry info to target
 - educate VSOs, VISN 4, and veterans' community providers on PACE
 - track veterans newly signing up for state benefits and more registry sign-ups
- Act 69 Implementation in AAA network
 - APD at Gov's office with training for field ready to go

In the planning stages:

- Alzheimer's Association PA Chapters and Veterans Service Providers
 - Alzheimer's Association presentation scheduled for 2019 CDVA conference
 - *Other presentation and educational opportunities???*
- Veterans-Directed Home & Community Based Services (Veterans Directed Care)
 - VA Pittsburgh reports they are looking at Veterans Directed Care
 - Awaiting VA fiscal changes to finalize and then hope to move forward
- Educate SNF/Rehabs/Senior Living Communities on Aid and Attendance Scams
 - "Don't Pay for Your Benefits"
- Expansion of Veteran Community Partnerships (VCP) in VISN 4
 - Increase VCP partnerships to include more community providers who can help veterans with wide-ranging services and supports
- Caregiver Support
 - Cross-system education and collaboration to better serve veteran caregivers

❑ Opportunities for Aging Veterans, their Family Members and Caregivers Workgroup

(community engagement, socialization, outdoor activities)

Current Committee Members: PA Department of Conservation Natural Resources, PA Council on the Arts, PA Fish and Boat Commission, PA Department of Aging

How and where can we share information and resources?

- Veterans Homes Activity Directors – Webinars, staff meetings/trainings, etc...
- Veteran Newsletter – working on a schedule of submissions

Transition Assistance News

Family Assistance Center

DMVA Digest

American Legion Newsletter

Any other publications that reach veterans or veterans providers???

Expanding Long Term Care Services Options to Veterans Subcommittee

❑ Expanding LTC Options to Veterans Subcommittee - Charter

Project	Expanding LTC Services to Veterans	Sponsor	Deputy Secretary, Kevin Hancock
Project Manager	Dr. Darryl Jackson	Date Updated	February 24, 2019
Background	<p>Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) has 6 Veterans Homes (Bureau of Veterans Homes= BVH) which are providing LTC services to Veterans and their spouses. Several studies were commissioned in the past 10 years about the future direction of BVH. These studies have suggested a 7th veterans home or expanding into Adult Day Care (ADC). Recently, the Senate Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee has been suggesting some form of collaboration with the LIFE program.</p>		
Business need and business benefits	<p>BVH needs reform. DMVA leadership is requesting to have expert comparison of BVH against other substitute programs in LTC such as LIFE, Community HealthChoices and ADHC. DMVA is looking for options for reform. LTC industry is changing and BVH needs to make transformation in order to keep up with changes and allow veteran's to receive long-term care services in the setting of their choice.</p>		
Objectives	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Use the experience of workgroup members to provide recommendations for how the DMVA and its long-term care service system can modernize; 2) Identify opportunities to integrate the Medicare and Medicaid systems and the DMVA long-term care system; 3) Educate the DMVA on service delivery options including community-based options for long-term care; 4) Identify, discuss, and trouble-shoot funding and billing constraints that serve as barriers to reform; 5) Identify and educate providers that may be able to support information, referral, and service delivery for veterans in need of key services (behavioral health, drug and alcohol treatment, housing, etc.); 		

Expanding LTC Options to Veterans Subcommittee

Scope	In Scope	Out of Scope	
	Medicare Par A (billing and training)	DMVA staffing issues	
	Information & Referral		
	Drug and Alcohol treatment services		
	Behavioral Health and suicide prevention services		
	Physical Health services		
	Long-Term Care services (both community and facility)		
	Long-term Care Clinical Eligibility and MA Financial Eligibility		
	Veteran Homelessness		
	Capacity of providers such as LIFE providers or County Facilities to support veterans		
Deliverables	Deliverables	Dates	
	Report (gathering of info by DHS)	12/31/2019	
	Coordinate Data with the Federal VA	TBD	
	Interim Steps (Opportunities for Quick Wins)	Ongoing	
Budget			

Expanding LTC Options to Veterans Subcommittee

Key Considerations	Assumptions & Constraints
	DMVA staffing and limited resources
	Federal VA constraints that may pose as a hurdle or challenge
	MA financial constraints
Success criteria	Documentation of resources available
	Measurable movement of DMVA modernization
	Measuring Veterans' preference for mode and location of service
Sponsor Signature	Signature
	Printed name
	Kevin Hancock, Deputy Secretary of Long Term Living
	Date
Project Manager	
	Signature
	Printed name Darryl Jackson, CMO for DMVA

Expanding LTC Options to Veterans Subcommittee

Focus Areas (charter objectives):

- a. Use the experience of workgroup members to provide recommendations for how the DMVA and its long-term care service system can modernize
- b. Identify opportunities to integrate the Medicare and Medicaid systems and the DMVA long-term care system
- c. Educate the DMVA on service delivery options including community-based options for long-term care
- d. Identify, discuss, and trouble-shoot funding and billing constraints that serve as barriers to reform
- e. Identify and educate providers that may be able to support information, referral, and service delivery for veterans in need of key services (behavioral health, drug and alcohol treatment, housing, etc.)
- f. Develop recommendations for legislative and regulatory support

Next Steps

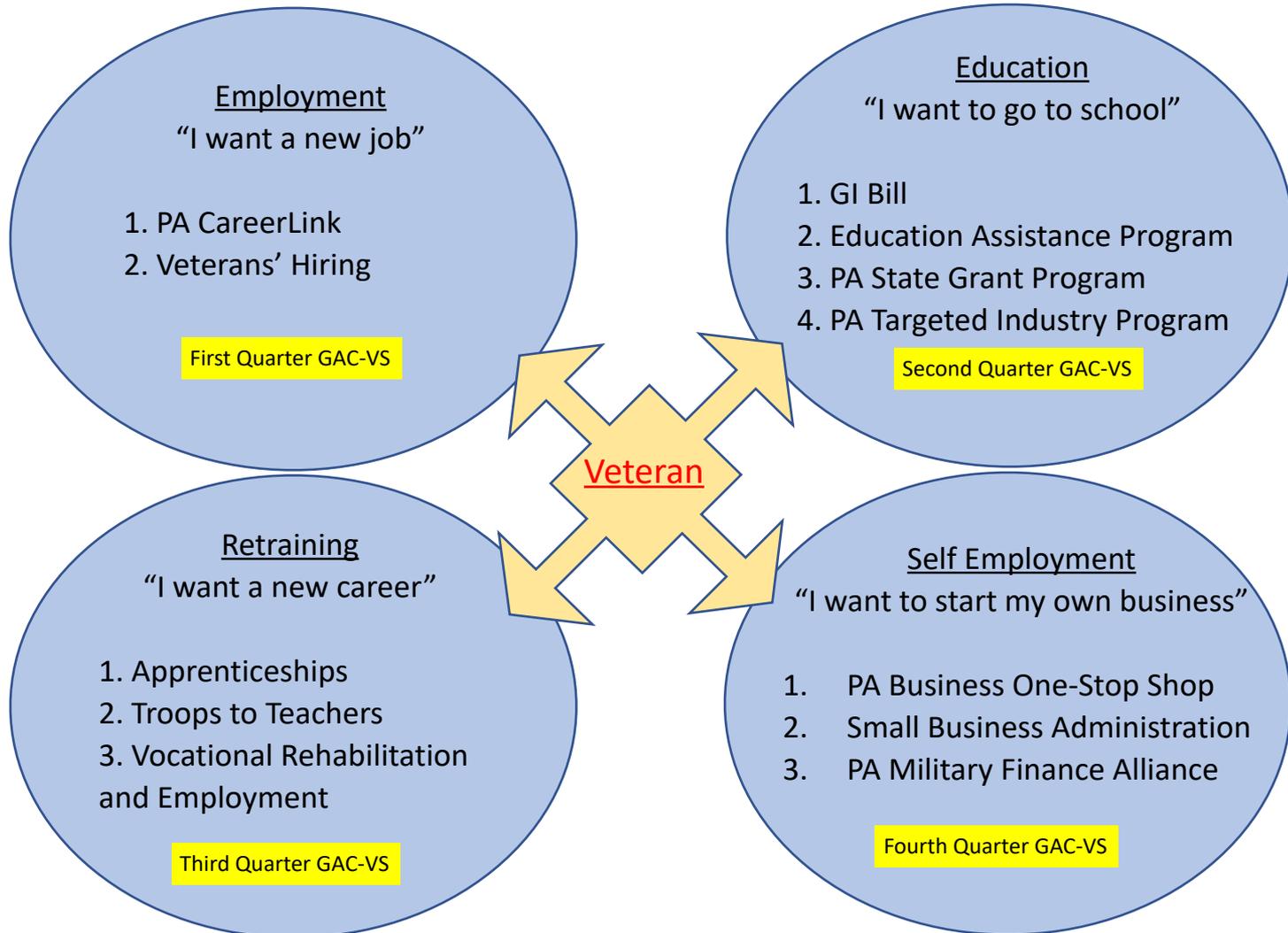
Education, Employment, Workforce Development Committee

Mr. Kory Auch

Education, Employment/Workforce Development Committee (EEWFD)

Members:

Name	Affiliation
Kory Auch	Chair / Office of Administration
Jeanne Block	Department of Labor and Industry
Kraig Kiehl	Department of Education
Cory Bender	Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs
Larry Furlong	Fish and Boat Commission
Tina Kotsalos	Department of Banking and Securities
Thomas Applebach	County Directors for Veterans Affairs
Scott Sheely	Department of Agriculture
Donna Tilley Hess	Department of Human Services
Mike Sullivan	Office of Administration
Mike McManus	Department of Community and Economic Development
Bruce Foster	State Veterans' Commission
Randy Wright/Billy Lanham	DoL Veterans' Employment and Training Service



Committee Quick Updates

➤ Weekly DMVA Digest

➤ employment.pa.gov

Pennsylvania Commendation Medal



Christine Hawk

Department of Education

April 3rd, 2019

“I WANT TO GO TO SCHOOL”

1. GI Bill
2. Education Assistance Program (next time)
3. PA State Grant Program
4. PA Targeted Industry Program

GI Bill®

Concept

- Earned Education Benefit
-
- US Dept of VA eligibility/funding
-
- 6 programs for Active Duty, Guard, Reserve, and Dependents

State Participation

- PDE = “State Approving Agency”
-
- 629 Active Facilities in PA
 - 423 Education / 206 Training
-
- 1550 School Certifying Officials

PA Key Data/Trends

- FY17 = 26,362 Beneficiaries
 - 80% using Post 9/11 GI Bill
 - FY16 = 24,611
 -
- FY17 = \$354M VA Expenditure
 - FY16 = \$375M

Key Changes/Initiatives

- Dept of VA’s new “VET TEC”
 - Veteran Employment Through Technology Education Courses
 - Pilot Program / \$15M / 5 years
 -
- PA: Military Family Education Program
 - Not the VA’s GI Bill®

PA State Grant Program

Concept

- PA's primary need-based grant program for postsecondary education
- Students apply by submitting:
 - FAFSA
 - PA State Grant Form
- Provides access and choice

State Participation

- Administered by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) since 1966
 - No cost to taxpayers
 - Administrative costs funded by PHEAA's business earnings

PA Key Data/Trends

- More than \$11.4 billion in grant awards since inception
 - Almost 7.2 million awards
- 2018-19 award year
 - Approx. 140,000 recipients
 - \$3,075 average award
 - Veterans qualify for max award

Key Changes/Initiatives

- Distance Education Integration
 - Eligible for a reduced award
 - Must attend PA headquartered/domiciled institution
- 2019-20 award year
 - \$4,123 maximum award
 - DE max award of \$3,092

Pennsylvania Targeted Industry Program (PA-TIP)

Concept

- Need-based grants for high-demand industries (energy, agriculture, diversified manufacturing, advanced materials, & food production fields)
- 2017-18 average award: \$3,527
- 2017-18 maximum award: \$4,318

State Participation

- Administered & Fully Funded by the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA)
- Key Partnerships
 - PA Labor & Industry
 - PA Department of Education (PDE)

PA Key Data/Trends

- 14,636 unique applicants
- 8,469 unique awards recipients
- 48 schools with recipients
- \$32,749,804 in grants awarded
- 83% of graduates gained employment
- 75% of recipients graduated
 - Does not include recipients who reapplied for PA-TIP

Key Changes/Initiatives

- Proposed 2019-20 Commonwealth funding for PA-TIP at \$7 Million
 - Program success outcome at PHEAA.org/PATIP
 - PDE & PA Labor & Industry continued efforts to expand program with additional high demand fields

Health and Behavioral Service Committee

Mr. Joel Mutschler
Chair

Health and Behavioral Service, Joel Mutschler, (Chair)

Members:

Name	Affiliation
Rick Hamp	Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Mike Stelacio	State Veterans' Commission
Jodi Skiles	Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs
Angela Keen	VISN 4
Robert Rounce	Department of Health
Dr. Darryl Jackson	Department of Military and Veterans Affairs
Ms. Donna Tilley-Hess	Department of Human Services (OMHSAS)

Mission: The Health and Behavioral Services Committee will identify health and behavioral service providers, foster relationships, and build resource awareness among service members, veterans and their families across the Commonwealth.

Vision: Connect service members, veterans, and their families regionally with health and behavioral services to improve mental well being.

National Mental Health Awareness Month May 2019

Fairweather Lodge Supporting Veterans

- Venango County
- 2 in Erie County
- Cumberland/Perry (Newville)

We are seeing a number of housing options being opened by county and community partners.

These housing options usually target a specialty population.

Dr. Darryl Jackson, Chief Medical Officer, and Mr. Rick Hamp, Special Assistant to the Deputy Adjutant General for Veterans Affairs, represent the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs on the CCBHC steering committee. Veterans are tracked as a priority population during intake and we are starting to track some data that should help us with basic information on emerging Veterans needs.

The CCBHC program has 310 veterans, 5 active duty and 7 national guard/reserve members enrolled.

Mental Health First Aid – Nothing significant to report

We continue to build partnerships with community organizations that are able to provide services to our Veterans with behavioral health challenges and co-occurring conditions such as Substance Use Disorders.

- New Vitae Wellness and Recovery in the Lehigh Valley (Allentown/Quakertown)
- Retreat Premier Addiction Treatment Centers – Lancaster, PA
- Strive Healthcare/Veteran-First Responder (VFR) Healthcare – Greensburg, PA
- Just For Tomorrow (JFT) Recovery House – Lemoyne, PA
- York County Prison Veteran POD – York, PA
- Allegheny County Prison Veteran POD – Allegheny, PA
- Veteran’s Recovery Home – York, PA

Service Member, Veterans and their Families Wellness Initiatives – We continue our efforts to leverage new and innovative partnerships and programs to help keep our service families well while remaining agile and flexible when responding to crisis situations. Information is power in this initiative and we continue our efforts to become subject matter experts in this information sharing arena.

- **Mental Health First Aid** – We have not been able to leverage and specific funding to support Mental Health First Aid for Veterans and their families during this State Fiscal Year (SFY). We are sharing many training opportunities that are hosted by community partners throughout the commonwealth. We have seen an increase in these training and awareness opportunities.
- **Regional Outreach Initiative** – DMVA is implementing our Regional Outreach Initiative. We are focused on being the information broker for resources that include local, regional, state, and federal partners to include community partners and Veteran Service Organizations.
- **Veteran Homelessness** – Homelessness among our military and veteran population continues to be a challenge. We are tracking a number of initiatives by sister Departments and agencies that are aimed at helping us address this area of concern. Pennsylvania continues to receive significant funding from the Supportive Services for Veterans and their Families (SSVF) program. Providers are changing but the resources remain stable to address this challenge within the commonwealth.

SAMHSA awarded \$55.9 Million in federal grant funding to combat the opioid epidemic in Pennsylvania. Of that funding the following initiatives directly relate to the Veterans' community:

- **Opioid Housing Initiative:** \$15 Million in SOR funding to DHS will fund pilot projects in eligible urban and rural communities throughout the Commonwealth to help individuals to become and remain engaged in evidence-based treatment interventions, provide individuals with the necessary support services to maintain housing stability, and provide pre-tenancy education services. Veterans are a priority population in this initiative.
- **Veterans in Crisis Outreach:** \$350,000 in SOR funding per year to support the development and implementation of regional programs focusing on the education, prevention or identification of OUDs for Pennsylvania Veterans, their families or caregivers and the identification of resources for treatment referral. This federal fiscal year DMVA is developing a communications plan to increase awareness of the resources that are available.
- **Veteran Service Officer Awareness Training:** \$50,000 in SOR funding to provide training to our Veteran Service Officers on the Opioid Crisis and our Warm Hand Off protocols. Scopes of work are under development to provide for a 30 minute online training component and to provide for a two hour training block during DMVA's annual Veteran Service Officer Training event.

Joint Committee on Homelessness

Mr. Joel Mutschler
Co-Chair

Vision: The Joint Committee on Homelessness will collaborate with federal, state, local government, and community partners to identify and build resource awareness for veterans experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

☐ Reducing Veteran Homelessness

- Joint Committee met on 4/2/19 via Skype
- Supporting Regionalization effort
- Successes/Challenges with Transitional Housing (TH)
 - Eastern and Western PA CoC workgroups have been identified: Missy Russell (West) and Tom Peters (East). The challenge begins with identifying the entitled/independent CoC.
 - Capturing the VA Medical TH programs has been completed. The challenge is now reaching out to the CoC for assistance with capture CoC funded programs, and then identifying any private funded TH programs.
 - Privately funded transitional housing providers may not be adhering to the housing first model.
 - <90 day LOS from date of identification of permanent housing in homeless Veteran population.

Women Veterans Committee

Ms. Jodi Zucco, *Chair*

Women Veterans Committee, Chair Jodi Zucco

Members	Affiliation
Jodi Zucco	U.S. Army Reserve (USAR) Retired
Constance Snavelly	State Veterans' Commission, U.S. Army Retired
JoAnn Tresco	Service Members and Family Support Branch, PA Army National Guard , Veteran Retired
Audrey Bergstresser	Vietnam Veterans of American, Inc., Service Officer, U.S. Army Retired
Lisa Kaye	County Directors for Veterans Affairs, U.S. Army Veteran
Patricia Conroy	Women Veterans Program Manager, Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center
Rhonda Smith	Air Force Veteran- Veteran small business owner
Althea Cirillo	Mentor with Veterans' Court of Dauphin County, USAR Retired
Sierra Bilous	DHS, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services

Mission: *Women Veterans Outreach, Women Veterans focus in Annual Veteran Symposium, Identify emerging needs, Identify Gaps in benefits, programs and services for Women Veterans*

Vision Statement: Increase visibility of PA Women Veterans including their contributions and accomplishments through partnerships, collaboration and participation. Identify, illuminate, and make recommendations to address issues of unique concern to PA Women Veterans. Actively engage in the military community to ensure situational awareness of relevant initiatives and issues. Seize every opportunity to provide education about our mission. Provide outreach to PA Women Veterans enabling them to address their concerns and take advantage of their benefits, healthcare, and other available support.

Critical Need: Identify Issues of Unique Concern to PA Women Veterans

Barrier: Lack of Input from our Target Population (in excess of 60,000 female veterans)

Mitigation:

- Develop and Disseminate a Questionnaire
- Town hall Meetings and Expos
- Supplemental Information, Academic Research and Studies

Executive Summary, Questionnaire Findings:

- 761 survey responses, hundreds of comment
- Demographics (in terms of highest response): Branch/Component, County, Ethnicity, Age/Service Era, Years of Service, Combat Service, Disability, Employment/Marital Status
- Top issues identified: gender bias, access to medical care and Veterans benefits at every level, and lack of inclusiveness in Veterans Organizations.

Working Group, Additional Survey Analysis: (Zucco, Snavely, Cirillo): Ongoing analysis of comments based upon open ended questions and link responses to demographics.

Next Town Hall and Expo Wilkes-Barre VAMC:

- Lackawanna Work Force Development and VA
- Date August 24, 2019 (confirmed)
- Planning continues (DMVA Outreach and Re-integration, Zucco, and Conroy)
- Request for Outreach support

Other Initiatives:

- Events attended: VFW Women's Retreat (Snavelly, Bergstresser, Cirillo) and full committee PA Commission for Women Honors Female Veterans
- Networking/Collaboration: 15th District American Legion (Gavern), Veterans Leadership Program, WIMSA PA Ambassador (Silvia), Pittsburgh Regional, VA

Judiciary Committee

Mr. Chip Gilliland

Judiciary Committee Update



Judiciary Committee , Ryan Yoder (Chair)

Members:

Name	Affiliation
Ryan Yoder	PA Department of Corrections (DOC)
Nicholas “Chip” Gilliland	PA Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA)
Richard Podguski	PA Board of Probation and Parole (PBPP)
Terry Stokes	Veterans Court Advocate- (PA VFW)
Ward Adams	GAC-VS (Member at Large)
Carl Feldman	Department of Human Services
Norm Marden	Office of the Attorney General
Andy Simpson	Administrative Office of Pennsylvania Courts (AOPC)
Katie Merritt	DMVA, Policy, Planning and Legislative Affairs Office
Jessica Penn-Shires	Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OHMSAS)

Judiciary Committee (Continued)

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Judiciary Committee is to build productive and sustaining relationships with GAC-VS committee members and other veteran-related organizations in order to collaborate and expand services and support for justice-involved veterans in such a way to promote public safety, reduce recidivism and costs while improving the lives of veterans, their families, and our communities. All veterans deserve the opportunity to be identified, educated and provided services and support regardless of background and circumstance. We will leave no veteran behind.

Judiciary Committee (Continued)

Corrections/Parole Employees Care About Veterans

On April 4, DOC Statewide Veterans Coordinator, Ryan Yoder participated with employees from the DOC's Bureau of Community Corrections and Allentown District Parole staff in providing lunch at the Veteran's Making a Difference Program in Reading, Pa. Staff provided food items such as hot dogs cooked on the grill, sauerkraut, macaroni salad, potato salad, chips, cookies and beverages. Helping to organize the day's activities were BCC Director Daniel McIntyre, BCC Region 2 Director Christy Ulrich and CFC Jerome Koerner. Employees who participated in the day of giving back were Parole Agents Natisha Hickson, Juanita Morales, Kathy Bolonski and Lisa Parrott; Region 2 Contract Facility Coordinators Rita Pepaj, Marisa Millet and Jerome Koerner; Lieutenants James Vance and Robert Motto, from the Management Operations Center; PBPP Deputy District Director Eric Pennypacker; I want to thank you two for assisting me in moving a number of our inmates to Jefferson County Jail today. The speed in which you helped us set this up was exceptional. That gave us some much needed breathing room. The staff you enlisted to assist us were extremely professional and made things very smooth. Please pass my regards along to them and Secretary Wetzel for the assistance. Again, my thanks. Greg Collins, Warden Clearfield County Jail Wernersville CCC Monitor Brandon Savarese; York CCC Director Lisa Faulkner; and Director of Probation and Parole Services Richard Podguski.

Judiciary Committee (Continued)

Eastern Region DOC Staff Serve Veterans

On May 1, DOC Statewide Veterans Coordinator, Ryan Yoder; Eastern Region Superintendents and Central Office Staff Assistants met at St. Francis Commons to prepare a lunch meal for the veterans. Saint Francis Commons is a transitional housing facility for homeless veterans, centrally located in downtown Scranton Pennsylvania. It is a 30-unit facility and there are approximately 20 veterans living in the fully furnished apartments at this time. All of the veterans come from different backgrounds and history, but the common theme is: being homeless brought them together. Each veteran has his or her own bedroom and bathroom, while utilizing community kitchens, dining rooms, laundry rooms and TV lounges to encourage socialization and community. The program provides up to 24 months of temporary housing, case management, food assistance, clothing assistance, on-site counseling, vocational assistance, transportation assistance, recreational opportunities, and referrals to a wide array of services. The facility is staffed 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. The staffing includes, but isn't limited, to case managers, psychology staff, maintenance staff and transportation staff. Each veteran completes an individualized goal plan with their case manager to outline the goals they would like to accomplish and develop a housing plan to attain permanent and sustainable housing upon discharge. As well, daily transportation is provided to the Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center for any Veteran needing to attend appointments. We were grateful for the opportunity to give back to some who have already given so much for us.

Judiciary Committee (Continued)

Panel: Improving Outcomes for Justice-Involved Vets with PTSD

In collaboration with the Veterans History Project, the National Institute of Corrections will host a panel discussion in anticipation of PTSD Awareness month on May 15, 2019 at the Library of Congress. Judiciary Chair, Ryan Yoder will be attending the event in Washington, D.C. The panel discussion will bring awareness to post-traumatic stress disorder for veterans who may be struggling to deal with their experiences from the military, particularly those who have been deployed to a combat zone. It will illuminate law enforcement programs at several locations across the country, from small towns to large cities, and highlight how each jurisdiction went about creating and implementing teams or programs to improve practices meant to serve veterans who are in crisis. Law enforcement officers, and Veteran Justice Outreach specialists from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and community-based agency representatives collaborate to implement approaches to calm down veterans in crisis in our communities. These programs are improving public safety. They are creating opportunities for veterans struggling to re-acclimate to civilian life. These traumatized men—and increasingly women—receive the help they need to address mental health issues, such as post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injury, related to their military experiences. This is a far better resolution than becoming incarcerated or otherwise involved in the criminal justice system. The panel will include key representatives from several jurisdictions, to share their stories and experiences working with veterans in crisis in their communities and how their innovative efforts are making a difference.



Judiciary Committee (Continued)

- Chip Gilliland, DMVA and Mr. Tim Susengill, Vietnam Veterans of America, Veteran Service Officer, conducted Veteran Service Unit (VSU) visits the week of 22 April – 26 April.
- Visits were conducted at SCI Phoenix, SCI Dallas, SCI Muncy, SCI Houtzdale and SCI Mercer
- Information was presented to incarcerated Veterans on Federal Compensation and Pension Claims, State Veteran Benefits and Mr. Susengill conducted his Post Traumatic Stress Disorder training session
- Individual one on one sessions were conducted with the Veterans at all the VSU's to answer any questions they might have regarding benefits and services
- Visits to all five VSU's will be planned and conducted in the Fall timeframe

Judiciary Committee (Continued)

- 25% increase in the number of PA Veterans Courts in 2019. Five new VTCs include: Armstrong, Lycoming, Lebanon, Indiana, and Westmoreland Counties.
- 196 successful graduates in 2017. 2018 statistics coming soon. See pacourts.us - News & Statistics - Research & Statistics
- Dauphin County Veterans Court and the VJOs did a wonderful job organizing the Veterans Court Mentor Training & Appreciation Day on April 30 at the Lebanon VA. Approximately 50 mentors attended.
- Statewide VTC strategic planning workshop will be held June 26 - June 27, 2019.
- Operational tune-up training (Sept. 5-6) for Carbon, Montgomery, & Lackawanna Counties.
- Volunteer Veteran Mentors Mentor Bootcamp will be held on Sept. 18-19.
- SAVE-THE-DATE! PA Veteran Courts annual event at Widener Commonwealth Law School on Sept. 20.
- 2nd Annual VJO Workshop is planned for Nov. 1, 2019.

Technology Committee

Ms. Sandra Patterson
Chair

Veterans Registry Statistics

Quarter	Counts
Q1	2,771
Q2	
Q3	
Q4	
2019 Total	2,771
Total as of 04/24/2019	21,175

Project Updates

- Voter Registration - We are working with Dept of State on approval of HLE (high Level Effort) for this project. PAI will start development work once HLE is approved.

OA/IT Subcommittee - Sandy Patterson, HHS Delivery Center CIO, Chair

Name	Affiliation
Eric Felty	DMVA – Project Manager
Tim Irvin	DMVA – IT Director DMVA
Richard Hamp	DMVA – Special Assistant to Deputy Adjutant General of Veteran Affairs
Joe Smolok	DMVA
Brian Natali	DMVA
Christine Hawk	PDE
Susan Leevan	IES/SAP
Robert Rounce	DOH
Ryan Yoder	DOC
Penni Bernard	PennDOT
Steven Wolf	L&I
Kory Auch	OA
Reid Walsh	OA
Jason, Swarthout	OA
Jordan, Rummel	OA

Suicide Prevention-Peer (SPPEER) Committee

Mr. Rick Hamp
Chair

Suicide Prevention-Peer (SPPEER) Committee, Rick Hamp (Chair)

Members:

Name	Affiliation
Rick Hamp	Department of Military and Veterans' Affairs
Mark Toderò	Pennsylvania National Guard
Joann Tresco	SM&FS/Alcohol & Drug Control Officer (PANG)
Donna Tilley-Hess	Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
Angela Keen, Ph.D.	Veterans Integrated Service Network, Mental Health Program Lead
VACANT	Department of Labor & Industry, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation
Fred Nardei	VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System, Certified Forensic Peer Specialist
Dave Measel	Pennsylvania Peer Support Coalition



BE THERE Campaign is underway

USDVA has fielded the Veteran Outreach Toolkit which is designed to help shape public health initiatives that support at-risk Veterans.

Awareness Campaigns have been initiated by DOD and The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

The State Suicide Prevention Plan has been published and numerous state level initiatives are being executed.

- Mental Health First Aid is being offered by community partners throughout the Commonwealth
- ASIST Training is being offered by community partners in various locations in the Commonwealth
- County MH/ID/EI offices are doing great work with their Suicide Prevention TF's
- UDSVA has fielded its toolkit for safe firearm storage

The Commonwealth is forming an interagency Suicide Prevention Task Force (DOH, DHS, DMVA, Prevent Suicide PA, and other state agencies and community partners)



SMFS Training/Events for JUNE-SEP

- 8-9 May 19: ASIST
- 11 May 19: Survivor Day at FTIG for Gold Star Families
- 17 May 19: ACE-SI
- 12 June 19: Guard Day at the Capital
- 15-19 July 19: ASIST T4T
- 4-5 SEP 19: ASIST
- 6 SEP 19: Resource Fair at Fort Indiantown Gap, PA

Follow PNG Service Member & Family Support Division on Facebook to see upcoming events for Veterans and families.



- Open Discussion
- Questions/Remarks

Wednesday, August 21, 2019 at 1:00 PM

**Arrowheads Community Club
Building 9-65, Fort Indiantown Gap
Annville, PA**